

# Hillsborough Presbyterian Church

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[www.hillsboroughpres.org](http://www.hillsboroughpres.org)     [YouTube Channel](#)



ORGANIZED 1816

*To those who seek the joy of sharing  
in worship and praise; to those  
who seek to know and serve the Lord,  
our Church opens wide its doors.*

## **ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

**March 15, 2026**

**11:00 AM**

*Reverend Alex Fischer, Pastor*

*Beth Jordan, Music Director*

*JoAnn Harrison, Secretary*

**Gathering of the People**

***O God, Thou Faithful God***

Prelude  
Welcome

Brahms

## Praise of God

Call to Worship

*(Unless otherwise noted, all liturgy and prayers written or adapted from a prayer by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org))*

One: God loves the field mouse.

**All: God loves the crows that take flight when church bells ring.**

One: God loves the baby, cooing in the back pew.

**All: God loves the child who rocks and claps.**

One: God loves the one with wrinkled hands and soft eyes.

**All: God loves the bumblebees and the tabby cats.**

One: God loves those who walk, crawl, and roll.

**All: God loves the giant oaks and the evergreens, standing strong over all of us.**

One: God loves the young, the impressionable, and the earnest.

**All: There is no bit of creation that God does not love.**

One: So let us worship this good-news God!

**All: Amen.**

\* Hymn No. 418

### *Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling*

1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for  
2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for  
3 O for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for

you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,  
you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,  
you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

watch - ing for you and for me.  
mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!  
par - don for you and for me. "Come home, come home!

*Refrain*

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble and bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 6/8. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. The score is divided into three systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The first system contains the first three lines of the hymn. The second system contains the next three lines. The third system contains the final three lines, including the refrain.

## Confession of Sin

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

One: God said, "When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them."  
(Lev.19:33)

**All: Holy God, we confess, we have often mistreated the immigrants in our land.**

One: Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."  
(Matt. 5:9)

**All: We confess, we have clung to violence and war more than we have pursued peace.**

One: God said, "When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, do not glean what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow." (Deut. 24:21)

**All: We confess, we have hoarded our resources and failed to care for our neighbors.**

One: Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them." (Matt.19:14)

**All: We confess, we have gatekept the good news in unfair ways.**

Silent Individual Confession

Sung Response No. 578

***O Lord, Have Mercy***

*Please join in singing this response.*

Capo 2: (G) (C) (D) (G)  
A D E A

1 O Lord, have mer - cy; O Lord, have mer - cy; O  
2 O Christ, have mer - cy; O Christ, have mer - cy; O

(E) (Am) (D) (G)  
F# Bm E A

Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy on us.  
Christ, have mer - cy, have mer - cy on us.

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for the response 'O Lord, Have Mercy'. It is written in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The first system has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. Chords are indicated above the staff: (G) A, (C) D, (D) E, and (G) A. Below the staff, two vocal parts are shown: '1 O Lord, have mer - cy; O Lord, have mer - cy; O' and '2 O Christ, have mer - cy; O Christ, have mer - cy; O'. The second system continues the melody with chords (E) F#, (Am) Bm, (D) E, and (G) A. The lyrics 'Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy on us.' and 'Christ, have mer - cy, have mer - cy on us.' are written below the staff.

Words of Forgiveness

One: Fortunately for all of us, God also said, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine." (Isaiah 43:1)

**All: By God's grace, despite our sin and shortcomings, we are redeemed, claimed, forgiven, and loved. May this good news change our lives! Amen.**

\* Response No. 414

**Be Still and Know That I Am God**

*Please join in singing this response.*

Capo 4: (C) (Am) (C7) (Am)  
E C#m E7 C#m

Be still and know that I am God.

(F) (C) (Dm) (Em) (Fmaj7) (G7)  
A E F#m G#m Amaj7 B7

Be still and know that I am God.

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for the response 'Be Still and Know That I Am God'. It is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first system has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. Chords are indicated above the staff: (C) E, (Am) C#m, (C7) E7, and (Am) C#m. Below the staff, the lyrics 'Be still and know that I am God.' are written. The second system continues the melody with chords (F) A, (C) E, (Dm) F#m, (Em) G#m, (Fmaj7) Amaj7, and (G7) B7. The lyrics 'Be still and know that I am God.' are written below the staff.

**Sharing of God's Word**

Conversation with the Children

David Remington

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

Deuteronomy 24:17-22 (pg. 250)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

***Ubi Caritas***

Gjeilo

*Where charity and love are, God is there.*

*The love of Christ has gathered us together.*

*Let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

*Let us revere and love the living God.*

*And from a sincere heart let us love one another.*

*Amen.*

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Reverend Alex Fischer

Response to the Gospel

\* Hymn No. 435

*There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide - ness  
 2 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures  
 of the sea. There's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice,  
 of the mind. And the heart of the E - ter - nal  
 which is more than lib - er - ty. There is no place where earth's  
 is most won - der - ful - ly kind. If our love were but more  
 sor - rows are more felt than up in heaven. There is no place  
 faith - ful, we would glad - ly trust God's Word, and our lives re -  
 where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment given.  
 flect thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of our Lord.

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

The Offering

Offertory

\* Hymn of Dedication No. 701

*Lord, Prepare Me*

*Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.  
With thanksgiving I'll be a living sanctuary for you.*

\* Prayer of Dedication

\* Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in the good news of Jesus Christ. It sounds like welcome and feels like home. It sounds like laughter and feels like mercy. It sounds like love and feels like a seat at the table, so we believe in the good news of Jesus Christ. We have seen it alive in the world. And even when our hearts ache, even when wars rage, even when mercy feels out of reach, we remember the one who welcomed the children and led with nonviolence. We remember the one who cared for the vulnerable and inspired those around him. We remember that the good news really is good news, for we have seen it alive in the world. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Go Forth to Serve

Invitation to Share and Serve

\* Hymn No. 188

*Jesus Loves Me!*

1 Je - sus loves me! This I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so.  
2 Je - sus loves me! This I know, as he loved so long a - go,

Lit - tle ones to him be-long. They are weak, but he is strong.  
tak - ing chil-dren on his knee, say - ing, "Let them come to me."

Refrain

Yes, Je - sus loves me! Yes, Je - sus loves me!

Yes, Je - sus loves me! The Bi - ble tells me so.

\* Charge and Benediction  
\* Postlude

*Largo from “Sonata da Camera”*

Vivaldi



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## CHURCH NOTES

**March 15, 2026**

**WELCOME VISITORS!** We welcome you to Hillsborough Presbyterian Church and to this worship service. We are truly pleased that you have chosen to worship with us today because we believe that everyone who enters these doors is God’s guest. We welcome all to be part of our community of faith, and participate in any of our activities and events.

Assisting in Worship today:

**Liturgist:** David Remington

**Children’s Sermon:** David Remington

**Acolyte:** Dean Bernard

**Nursery:** Ximena Ceja-Reyes, Emma Cathey

**Video:** Martin and Judy Brown

**Intergenerational Sunday School** series - "Won't You Be My Neighbor?" based on Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood. Fred Rogers was an ordained minister of word and sacrament for the PC(USA) and is a notable public figure whose work around peace and reconciliation are worth remembering and exploring again. On **March 15 and 22**, we'll all gather in Strudwick Hall during the Sunday school hour (9:45-10:45 a.m.) to learn and engage in lessons from Mister Rogers' Neighborhood. The four lessons foster kindness and community and focus on empathy and neighborhood building for all ages. Together, we'll enjoy stories, songs, activities, and memorable clips like this one - watch the "Mister Roger's Neighborhood: Opening Theme": [bit.ly/NeighborhoodOpeningVideo](https://bit.ly/NeighborhoodOpeningVideo)

**HPC Book Club** meets on Sunday, March 15, 12:15 PM in Strudwick Hall. We are reading "The Devil and Sherlock Holmes – Tales of Murder, Madness and Obsession," by David Grann. Questions? See Rich Erdosy.

**HPC's Youth Group** (grades 6-12) will gather at 5:00 PM on Sunday, March 22, at 5:00 PM in Strudwick Hall. We'll have a Youth Fun Day on **Sunday, March 15**. We'll meet at Nova Trampoline park in Durham at 1:45 PM. If you would like to provide a Sunday meal for our youth, please use sign-up genius link: [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0445A8A729A3FB6-58001396-2526#](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0445A8A729A3FB6-58001396-2526#/). Interested in being an adult volunteer? Other questions? See Eric Cathey.

**Finance Committee** meeting in Room #204 or on zoom at 7:00 PM on Monday, March 16. Questions? See Josh Fernandez.

**Community Outreach Committee** will meet on Tuesday, March 17, at 7:00 PM. Join us in Room #204 or on Zoom. Questions? See Linda Jaubert.

The **Knitting Group** will meet on Wednesday, March 18, at 12:30 in the HPC Parlor. Questions? See Sara Clay.

**Heaven Practice Bible Study** on Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, at 6pm. You are invited to gather at Hester Grove Missionary Baptist Church (590 Wheelers Church Rd, Hurdle Mills, NC 27541). Bible Study will be lead by Rev. Tony Neal.

**HPC Coffee & Tea Club** will gather on Thursday, March 19, at 9:00 AM at Antonia's. All are welcome to join us! Questions? See Joe Crane.

The **Finish-It-Friday** group will meet on Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. Bring any craft project and work on it in Strudwick with friends (knitting, crochet, painting, sewing, quilting, etc). We start at 6:00 PM and end at 11:00 PM. Come any time during that period. We will ord New Hope Camp & Conference Centerer pizza, or you can bring your dinner. There is plenty of room to spread out to work and visit. Questions? See Ann Sebesan.

HPC will be collecting the **One Great Hour of Sharing Offering** on March 22, 29 and April 5<sup>th</sup>, Easter Sunday. The PCUSA participates in this special offering each year, and designates the funds received to disaster, hunger, poverty, climate change, and immigration/migration and refugees. **If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.** You can give your offering with cash (using an envelope stating it is for the OGHS offering), by check and putting OGHS in the memo line, or you can use the online link from our website. The dropdown list includes the OGHS Offering.

**Heaven Practice Gathering** at 6pm on Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, also at Hester Grove Missionary Baptist Church. Rev. Lisa Frost-Phillips from St. Matthew's will be our preacher.

**HPC Spring Work Day** will be on Saturday March 28, from 9:00am to 12:00 Noon. Wear your paint or gardening clothes and join us! We will have tasks for all ages and skill levels. Coffee, juice, and donuts will get you started. Questions or suggestions? Jan McKelvey, [janmckelvey128@gmail.com](mailto:janmckelvey128@gmail.com), 919-260-9024.

**Women's Fellowship** – Last Saturday breakfast will be at 9:00 AM on Saturday, March 28, in Strudwick Hall. A light breakfast (fruit and pastry) will be provided. Please join other women in the church for a time of food and fellowship. Children are welcome. A breakfast table will be set up for the little ones. Questions, see Karoline Mathewson.

HPC is hosting a **potluck baby shower** on Sunday, March 29, at 5 p.m. in Strudwick Hall for Harrison Flinn. All are invited! Cake will be provided. Below is the baby registry link. Any questions, please feel free to reach out to me or Barbara Younger. We look forward to celebrating the new baby Flinn!  
<https://www.amazon.com/baby-reg/B9O378Q2A0XJ>

**HPC Directory** – If you have any updates for the HPC Directory – please pass them along to the church office. Need a new photo? Let us know that too! ([hpchurch@hillsboroughpres.org](mailto:hpchurch@hillsboroughpres.org))

An invitation to a **Community Lecture Series** offered by the Orange County Historical Museum as we celebrate 250 years of our country – all are welcome! Talks will be highlighting important historical documents. Join them on Saturdays, March 21, 28, and April 4, 11, 18. All talks begin at 4:30 PM in Strudwick Hall.

**2026 Flower Chart** – Sign up and share with your Church the joy of an anniversary, a special occasion, or memorialize someone important to you! Sign up on the sheet outside the church office or drop us an email with a date! ([hpchurch@hillsboroughpres.org](mailto:hpchurch@hillsboroughpres.org))

**New Hope Camp** has long been a place where people of all ages grow in faith, fellowship and leadership. The camp is seeking volunteers to serve on committees: Finance, B&G, Strategic Growth & Marketing, Personnel. Camp staff and Board directors are working hard to re-vitalize the camp. We need your time and talents. Donations can be designated as part of your Sunday offering at HPC or donate directly to <https://newhopedonations.campbraingiving.com/>. Contact: Jan McKelvey, HPC representative to New Hope Camp.

**Cold Weather Shelter** at 828 MLK Jr. Blvd.: Hillsborough residents needing transportation to the Chapel Hill cold weather shelter may contact the Street Outreach Team by 6 p.m. at (919) 886-3351 for assistance. Questions? Ask David Remington or Jan McKelvey.

**WAYS TO GIVE - Giving Opportunities**

The residents of **Orange County Correctional** are in need of personal hygiene items this Spring. Regular size toothpaste; Arm and Hammer Deodorant, Suave 3 in 1 body wash and shampoo. These can be brought to the OCC basket in the Narthex. They will be picked up and delivered monthly. Thank you for any items and prayers for our neighbors. Questions? See Robin Barnhill.

Many of you are aware of **OCIM** and its feeding of those in need. We are known as the “peanut butter church”. There is always a need for peanut butter --- creamy peanut butter, preferably. You may place peanut butter in the covered OCIM basket in the Narthex at any time. A jar can go in every bag given to a client. You can always see immediate needs in the weekly NewsFlash.

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Check out our **HPC WEBSITE** at [www.hillsboroughpres.org](http://www.hillsboroughpres.org) – click on any event on our calendar page for details! You will also find the monthly newsletter and Sunday bulletin posted on this website!  
A great way to keep up with what’s happening at HPC!



In an emergency or to share a concern, please contact the church office, 919-732-3131. You may also contact the Pastor, Reverend Alex Fischer, at [hillsboroughpresrev@gmail.com](mailto:hillsboroughpresrev@gmail.com).

**Easter Flowers for the Sanctuary**



Once again we will have Easter Lilies filling the sanctuary for Easter Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. After Easter worship you are invited to take one home. A donation of \$15 per plant is requested.

You can make your donation in honor or memory of someone you love. Fill out the form below:

**EASTER FLOWER DONATION FORM**

Donors Name(s) to be listed in bulletin: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of Person(s) your donation is for: (please circle memory or honor)

Memory/Honor \_\_\_\_\_

Memory/Honor \_\_\_\_\_

You may mail your donation to the church office or drop it in the offering plate – along with this form or email your information to [hpchurch@hillsboroughpres.org](mailto:hpchurch@hillsboroughpres.org). **Deadline is March 22<sup>nd</sup>!**

**THIS SUNDAY: March 15 Fourth Sunday in Lent**

**Lectionary Readings:** I Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23;  
Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

9:45 AM Intergenerational Sunday School – for all ages!  
(Strudwick Hall)

11:00 AM Traditional Worship and OCIM Food Drive  
(Sanctuary / YouTube)

12:15 PM HPC Book Club (Strudwick Hall)

1:45 PM Youth Fun Day – meet at Nova Trampoline Park  
in Durham

**Mon** - 7:00 PM Finance Committee (Room #204 or Zoom)

**Tue** - 7:00 PM Community Outreach Committee (#204 or Zoom)

**Wed** - 12:30 PM HPC Knitting Group (Parlor)

6:00 PM “Heaven Practice” Bible Study – (Hester Grove  
Missionary Baptist Church)

7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal (#221)

**Thu** – 9:00 AM HPC Coffee & Tea (Antonia’s)

**Fri** - 6:00 PM Finish-It-Friday (Strudwick Hall)

**Sat** - 4:30 PM Museum Lecture Series (Strudwick)

**Volunteers:**

**Liturgist and Children’s Sermon:** David Remington

**Acolyte:** Dean Bernard

**Nursery:** Ximena Ceja-Reyes, Emma Cathey

**Video:** Martin and Judy Brown

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**NEXT SUNDAY: March 22 Fifth Sunday in Lent**

**Lectionary Readings:** Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130;  
Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

9:45 AM Intergenerational Sunday School – for all ages!  
(Strudwick Hall)

11:00 AM Traditional Worship and One Great Hour of  
Sharing Offering (Sanctuary / YouTube)

5:00 PM Youth Group (Strudwick Hall)

6:00 PM “Heaven Practice” Worship --  
(Hester Grove Missionary Baptist Church)

**Volunteers:**

**Liturgist and Children’s Sermon:** Kathy Remington

**Acolyte:** Mary Jeanne Magill

**Nursery:** Ximena Ceja-Reyes, Jackie Harrell

**Flowers:** O’Connor Family

**Video:** David Remington, Joe Crane